

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated January 13, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 58-75 based upon double patenting and also objected to claims 58-75 because of certain informalities and suggested amendments for the claims.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 58, 62, 63, 67, 71 and 72. Claims 1-57 had been canceled previously and Applicants have not added any additional claims. Accordingly, claims 58-75 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

### **I. Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 58 – 75**

The Examiner has rejected claims 58-75 as being unpatentable over claims 28-37 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/739,580, allowed on November 19, 2004. Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer with this response. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

### **II. Informality Objections To Claims 58 – 75**

The Examiner has rejected claims 58, 62, 63, 67, 71 and 72 based upon certain informalities. Applicants have amended the claims 58, 62, 63, 67, 71 and 72 to reflect the suggestions offered by the Examiner and in so doing, has adopted all but one of the Examiner's suggestions.

The Examiner has suggested a change to claims 58 and 67 whereby step a, line 2 is modified to insert, after the word “graph”, the phrase “a plurality of connection graphs” in order to provide proper antecedent basis for claim 62 – 63 and 72-73, respectively.

The subject claims define a method of pre-computing attributes. One of the steps is to identify at least one connection graph. To include identifying at least one graph “from a plurality of connection graphs” implies, *a priori*, that the connection graphs had been previously identified. However, the process of initially identifying at least one connection graph is part of the first step (claim 57 and 67, section a, second line) of the method.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the plural use of connection graphs in independent claims 61 and 62 already has proper antecedent basis vis-à-vis the language of claim 58. This is because claim 58 recites the identification of at least one connection graph for each combination of slots. Because there are more than one combination of slots, and each slot has at least one connection graph, this necessarily implies that there will be more than one connection graph.

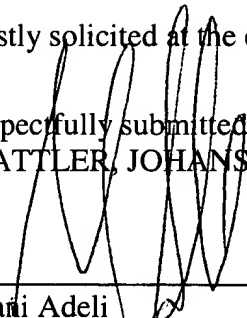
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 58, 62, 63, 67, 71 and 72.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 58-75, are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,  
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